

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3062

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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7249

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, EC, CU, US

SUBJECT: RECENT EDITORIAL COMMENT ON FORTHCOMING OAS MFM

REF: QUITO 7140, 7176

1. RECENT QUITO EDITORIAL COMMENT, AS REFLECTED IN REFTELS, HAS BEEN NOTABLY NERVOUS REGARDING THE OUTCOME OF THE OAS MFM SCHEDULED TO BEGIN HERE ON NOVEMBER 8. DESPITE WELL-PUBLICIZED STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ AND FONMIN LUCIO PAREDES DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S UNAVAILABILITY (QUITO 6946), LOCAL COMMENTATORS HAVE CONTINUED TO VIEW HIS PROSPECTIVE ABSENCE WITH APPREHENSION, INTERPRETING IT AS AN ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE OPPOSITION TO THE LIFTING OF SANCTIONS. FAILURE TO DO SO IS VIEWED BY INFLUENTIAL EL TIEMPO EDITORIALIST JULIO PRADO, A FORMER FONMIN, AS POTENTIAL DEATH-BLOW TO THE OAS AND LATIN AMERICAN UNITY. HE REASONS THAT LEADING PROTAGONISTS OF CUBAN "NORMALIZATION" LIKELY TO RESTORE RELATIONS IN SPITE OF JUDICIALLY STILL-VALID SANCTIONS. IN THIS, PRADO APPEARS TO REFLECT FONOFF AND GENERAL GOE VIEW.

2. ABOVE CONCERNS MAY HAVE LED TO INTRODUCTION OF "ANTI-INTERVENTION" THEME, FUELED BY FORTUITOUS AND WELL-PUBLICIZED AIRING OF ALLEGED CIA ROLE IN RECENT

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CHILEAN POLITICS, AS LEVER AGAINST POSSIBLY NEGATIVE

US POSITION. PRADO NEVERTHELESS FAVORS TAKING UP ISSUE
"SOME OTHER TIME" AND THIS COINCIDES WITH OBVIOUS GOE
DESIRE TO AVOID ENDANGERING OUTCOME OF MFM THROUGH
INTRODUCTION OF SUCH EXTRANEIOUS AND CONTENTIONS ISSUES.
IT ALSO TRACKS WELL WITH PRESENT GOE'S AVOIDANCE OF
GRATUITOUSLY ANTI-US PUBLIC STANDS.
HEMENWAY

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